



Comhairle Ceantair  
**Lár Uladh**  
**Mid Ulster**  
District Council

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Hilda Clements  
Principal Planning Officer  
Development Plan Team - Planning Department  
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council  
Strule House  
16 High Street  
Omagh  
BT78 1BQ

Date: 06 June 2019

Dear Hilda,

**Re-Notification - Fermanagh and Omagh Local Development Plan 2030: Draft Plan Strategy – Public Consultation on site specific policy representations (counter representations)**

I write with reference to the above subject and further to your recent consultation in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 17 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.

We have worked closely with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC), as well as with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Derry and Strabane District Council, as part of our cross boundary development plan work within the Sperrins Forum. The forum has met on a number of occasions and have produced a Draft Statement of Common Ground, which details the main areas of common ground that all member councils share. It is hoped that the draft can shortly be agreed by the forum. The areas of common ground are:

- Protection of Landscapes;
- Management of Minerals Development;
- Sustainable Tourism;
- Road Linkages and Infrastructure;
- Sustaining Rural Communities/Accommodating Growth.

An examination of the representations submitted to your draft Plan Strategy has revealed that a number of them raise issues that have the potential to undermine the commitment of the Sperrins Forum to protect our most sensitive landscapes from inappropriate development.

Within your draft Plan Strategy, FODC have designated a Special Countryside Area (SCA) within part of the Sperrin AONB, and within the SCA development will not be permitted unless in a limited number of circumstances. You have also designated an Area of Constraint on Mineral Development within the Sperrin AONB.

Specially representation DPS266 and DPS270, in the context of wind energy development, raise concerns on the introduction of a Special Countryside Area (SCA) in the Sperrins, and request that this be reconsidered.

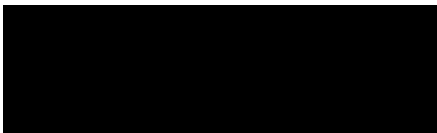
In addition, representations DPS024, DPS105, DPS110, DPS111, and DPS271 either raise concerns over the Area of Constraint on Mineral Development (ACMD) designation in terms of its extent, or its introduction.

It is the view of Mid Ulster District Council that FODC should designate an SCA and ACMD in the Sperrins AONB, which will protect our most sensitive landscapes from inappropriate development. The ACMD designation will also protect our most sensitive areas, which are important for their intrinsic landscape, amenity, scientific or heritage value. How FODC do this in terms of the extent of the designations, and timing of them, is considered a matter for your council.

Mid Ulster District Council wish to avail of the opportunity for a hearing at the Independent Examination, in the context of this counter-representation to the representations detailed above.

Should you wish to discuss this please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,



**Sinead McEvoy**  
**Principal Planning Officer – Head of Development Plan**

**On behalf of Dr Chris Boomer, Planning Manager**